

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 11, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 38

Introduced by ~~Senator~~—Senators Alquist, Aanestad, Ackerman, Alarcon, Ashburn, Battin, Bowen, Campbell, Cedillo, Chesbro, Cox, Denham, Ducheny, Dunn, Dutton, Figueroa, Hollingsworth, Kehoe, Kuehl, Lowenthal, Machado, Maldonado, Margett, McClintock, Migden, Morrow, Murray, Ortiz, Perata, Poochigian, Romero, Runner, Scott, Simitian, Soto, Torlakson, and Vincent

April 6, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 38—Relative to Crime Victims' Rights Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 38, as amended, Alquist. Crime victims.

This measure would recognize the week of April 10 through April 16, 2005, as Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Violent crime continues to exist in California and
2 crime in one part of the state, or against one person, affects out
3 entire sense of well-being; and
4 WHEREAS, All Californians are affected by crime, not just
5 the victims of violent crime; and
6 WHEREAS, The most effective aid that can be provided to
7 victims of crime is to prevent crime from taking place in the first
8 place; and
9 WHEREAS, The National Crime Victims' Rights Week is
10 celebrating its silver anniversary from April 10 through April 16,
11 2005; and

1 WHEREAS, For the 25 years since 1981, National Crime
2 Victims' Rights Week has raised awareness of the special needs
3 of crime victims; and

4 WHEREAS, The theme for this 25th commemoration of
5 National Crime Victims' Rights Week is "Justice Isn't Served
6 Until Crime Victims Are"; and

7 WHEREAS, 2005 is a landmark year for crime victims and
8 survivors and those who serve them; and

9 WHEREAS, The respect and protection of victims' rights
10 within the legal process is one of the most critical components of
11 an effective criminal justice system; and

12 WHEREAS, Victims and witnesses of crime require special
13 attention to ensure that they are thoroughly informed about, and
14 participate effectively in, the criminal justice system; and

15 WHEREAS, To the maximum extent allowed by law, victims
16 of violent crime should receive compensation for their losses;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Each day, thousands of victims and witnesses
19 receive assistance from victim support organizations,
20 victim-witness assistance centers, private service providers, and
21 state and local governments; and

22 WHEREAS, The criminal justice system in this state must
23 persist in its effort to better coordinate and improve the quality of
24 services provided to victims and witnesses; and

25 WHEREAS, California has been a pioneer in victims' rights
26 and is observing the 40th anniversary of California's Victim
27 Compensation Program, the first, oldest, and largest in the
28 nation; and

29 WHEREAS, Since 1965, California has awarded over \$1
30 billion to help crime victims; and

31 WHEREAS, California citizens enshrined victims' rights in
32 the California Constitution in 1982 through the passage of
33 Proposition 8, the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights; and

34 WHEREAS, Each year, the observance of the National Crime
35 Victims' Rights Week focuses on the problems confronting
36 victims of crime and the services available to support these
37 victims; and

38 WHEREAS, The remembrances observed during National
39 Crime Victims' Rights Week promote awareness of victim issues
40 and acknowledge the combined efforts of citizens, government,

1 and the criminal justice system to improve victims' services in
2 California; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the week of April 10 through April 16,
5 2005, be recognized as Crime Victims' Rights Week in
6 California; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
8 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O